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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re. Application of: **HOWARD, Brett L.**  
Serial No.: **09/244,203**  
Filed: **02/04/1999**  
Title: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CIPHERING DATA**  
Examiner: **CALLAHAN, Paul E.**  
Art Unit: **2132**  
Confirmation No.: **3485**



Atty's Docket No.: **53921/116**

United States Department of Commerce  
Patent and Trademark Office  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C., 20231  
U.S.A.

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**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION AND AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 15, 2002. Please note that by way of separate transmittal of July 11, 2002, Applicant submits a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the time for responding to the Office Action by three months to July 15, 2002.

Examiner's telephone message of July 10, 2002 to Mr. Robert Nakano indicated that the application was mistakenly abandoned by the Examiner prior to expiry of six months from the mailing of the Office Action, i.e. prior to July 15, 2002, and that a Notice of Abandonment has been issued. Applicant understands from that same telephone message that Examiner is withdrawing the Notice of Abandonment without requiring petition from Applicant. On that basis, Applicant understands that the application is not abandoned and that this Response will be considered by the Patent Office on its merits.

Kindly amend the subject application as follows, in view of the comments set out below.

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